

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Draft Vision and Public Participation Opportunities

MARCH 8, 2004



Presentation Overview

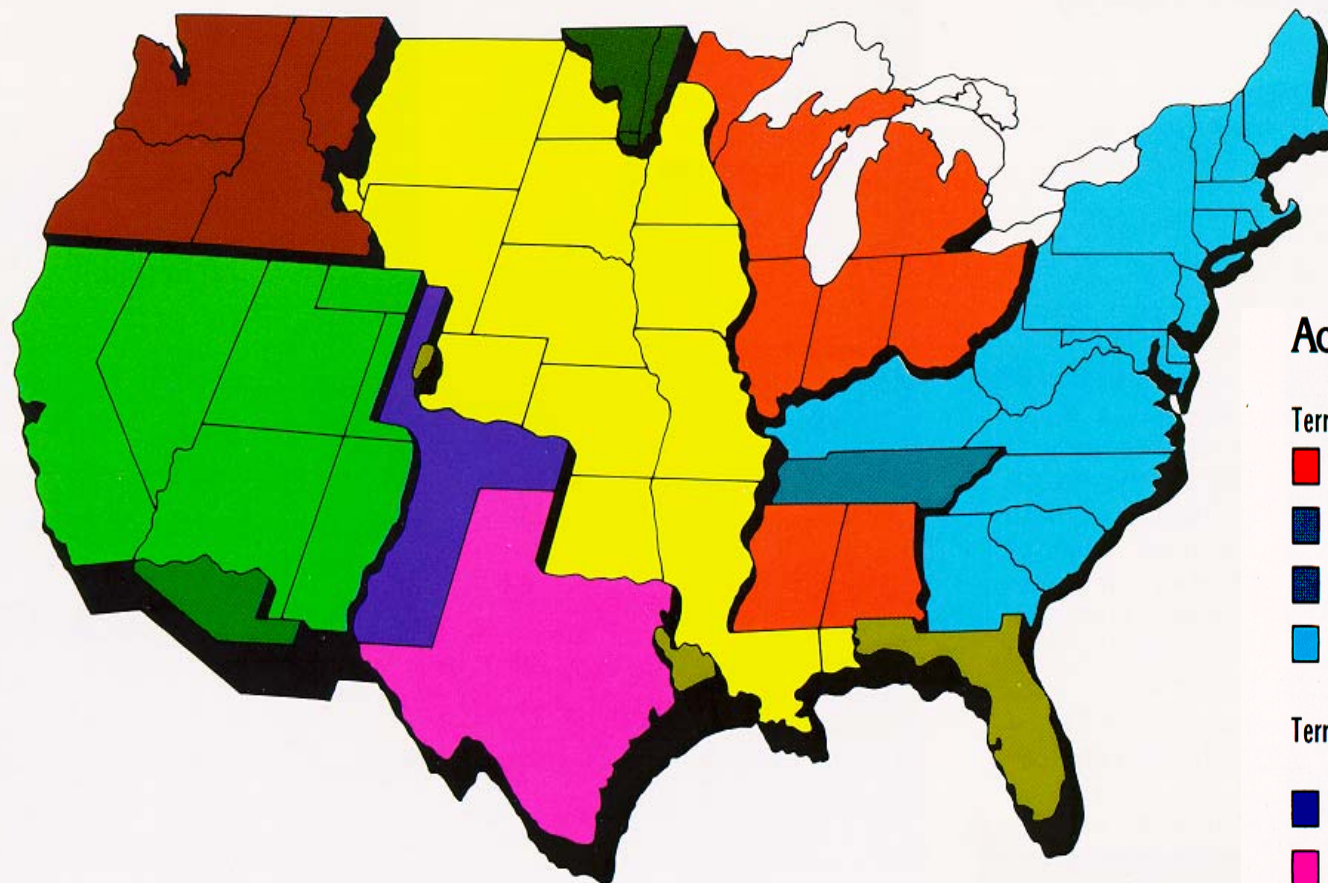
- Public Land History
- BLM Responsibilities and Programs
- Why are we planning?
- Overview of the Planning Process
- Planning Criteria
- Scoping Summary
- What's happened since scoping?
- Draft Vision for the IFNM
- Next steps



The Public Domain

- To create national wealth and secure sovereignty
- Aimed at settlement and development
- Belief that land and natural resources were to be used and improved





Acquisition of the Public Domain

Territory of the Original Thirteen States

- State cessions to the United States
- North Carolina cession to the United States 1790
- United States cession to Tennessee, 1806 and 1846
- The Original Thirteen States (present area) plus the District of Columbia

Territory of the Republic of Texas (Annexation of Texas, 1845)

- United States purchase from Texas 1850
- State of Texas (present area)

Other Acquisitions by the United States

- Louisiana purchase from France 1803
- Agreement with Great Britain 1818
- Treaty with Spain (cession of Florida and adjustment of claims) 1819
- Oregon Compromise with Great Britain 1846
- Cession from Mexico 1848
- Gadsden Purchase from Mexico 1853

New Attitude 1800-1900

- Dispose of land in mid-West and West
- General Land Office (GLO) established in 1812
- By 1870, recognition that public land held enormous value and should be held in public trust



Resource Conservation

- Early 1900s, progressive, scientific approach to resource conservation that emphasized sustainable yield
- Taylor Grazing Act of 1934
- Interior Grazing Service and GLO combine to create BLM in 1946
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976



Americans Move West

- In 1945, population of the West was 17 million - today it is more than 63 million
- Public lands no longer remote - 22 million people live within 25 miles of public land





Federal Land Status

- BLM
 - 262 million acres surface
 - 570 million acres mineral estate
- Forest Service
 - 191 million acres
- Fish & Wildlife Service
 - 93 million acres
- National Park Service
 - 84 million acres
- Department of Defense
 - 12 million acres



Ironwood Forest National Monument
Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

BLM Programs

- Land and Realty
- Soil, Water, and Air
- Range
- Cultural Resources
- Forestry
- Wildlife Habitat
- Vegetation
- Special Status Species
- Recreation
- Minerals
- Fire Management
- Wilderness
- Planning
- Law Enforcement
- Hazardous Materials
- Wild Horse and Burro



Why are we planning?

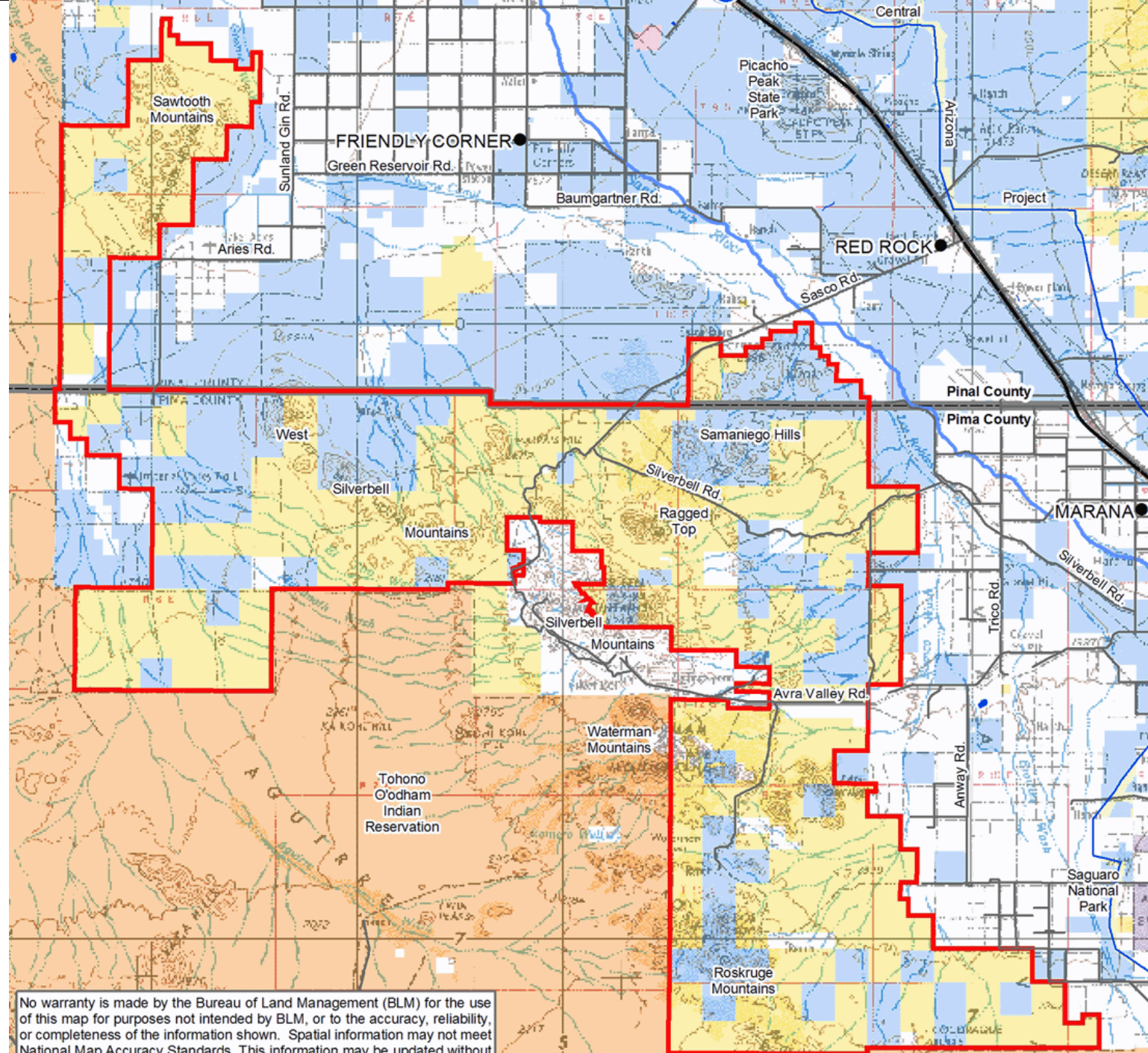
- Designation of the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM)
- Community growth with increased demands on public land
- Community values



Planning Area

- Encompasses over 189,600 acres
 - 128,900 acres of public land
 - 54,700 acres of State Trust Land
 - 6,000 acres of private land
- Current management guidance
 - 1989 Phoenix Resource Management Plan (RMP)
 - 1987 Eastern Arizona Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Presidential Proclamation 7320
 - Interim guidance for the IFNM





Planning Process

- Logical sequential steps
- Includes technical studies
- Allows for interaction with agencies and the public throughout



Relevant Laws to be Followed

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- Presidential Proclamation 7320
- Resource Laws and Regulations
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Clean Air Act
 - Clean Water Act
 - Natural Historic Preservation Act
 - Others



Planning Criteria

- Provide direction for the plan, based on the issues identified
- Focus on the decisions to be made, to avoid unnecessary data collection
- Determines how planning team
 - Approaches development of alternatives
 - Selects of preferred alternative



Public Scoping

- Notice of Intent issued on April 24, 2002
- Scoping period through September 2002
- Information mailed to approximately 400 addresses
- Meetings announced in newspaper advertisements, media releases, and BLM's website



Public Scoping Meetings

- Nine meetings in July 2002
- 173 attendees
- Open-house format with display boards and BLM staff to answer questions
- Fact sheets about IFNM resources available as handouts



Scoping Comments - Geography

- Comments received from all 50 states,
Washington D.C., Puerto Rico
 - California - 13.3%
 - Arizona - 7.8%
 - Colorado - 6.2%
 - New York - 5.7%
 - Florida - 5.0%
- Comments from 33 foreign countries



Number and Type of Comments Received

- Over 9,100 comment letters reviewed
- Two form letters
 - First comprised 58% of the total letters
 - Second comprised 38% of the total letters
- Unique letters
 - Included letters from individuals and agencies
 - Comprised about 4% of the total letters



Scoping Comments - Issues

- Recreation
- Transportation and Access
- Biological Resources
- Minerals (Mining)
- Cultural Resources
- Lands and Realty
- Facilities and Education
- Visual Resources
- Law Enforcement and Public Safety
- Air Quality
- Soils
- Water
- Grazing Management
- Fire Management
- Special Area Designations
- Wilderness Characteristics
- Social and Economic Conditions
- Native American Issues
- Hazardous Materials



BLM's Efforts Since Scoping

- Reviewing and summarizing comments
- Data collection for various resources in conjunction with the University of Arizona and Arizona Sonora Desert Museum
- Secured contractor for assistance with RMP



Draft Vision for the IFNM

"The Ironwood Forest National Monument will remain a place where the ironwood-rich Sonoran Desert ecosystem retains its naturalness, open spaces, outstanding vistas, and unique resources for present and future generations to use, enjoy, and appreciate."



Partnering with the Community

- Federal, State, and Local Agencies
 - Several agencies/jurisdictions interested in becoming Cooperating Agencies
- Tribal Consultation
- Public Participation
 - Long-term benefits



Next Steps for Public Involvement

- Public input on the Draft Vision for the IFNM
- Public input on what types of public participation is desired (e.g., workshops, field trips, etc.)
- Public input on resource-specific goals (late March)



Break-out Groups

- Review the Draft Vision for the IFNM
- Brainstorm public involvement desired
- Make your comments most effective by being specific
- Reconvene following break-outs to hear ideas from other groups



Ironwood Forest National Monument Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Questions?

